

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 140 February 2017

Parish Website: www.theleighpc.org.uk

Issue Editor: Jo Robson Deadline for next month's Newsletter articles: Thursday 23 February

Contact: Jo Robson, Daniels Orchard, The Leigh, GL19 4AG 01242 680257 joanna.robson@btinternet.com

Creative Christmas and Riding for The Disabled

Sue Withers and I went to the RDA meeting this week and presented the group with a cheque for £1000. This was the result of an amazing amount raised by Creative Christmas which supports several charities. Riding for The Disabled helps children and adults with mental as well as physical disabilities and over the weeks and months that they attend the regular sessions, growth in their confidence and enthusiasm is clear to see and immensely satisfying. The money given to the Maisemore group, for children mainly from Milestones School, will go towards buying two new ponies which will give more children the opportunity to experience the magic of riding. The volunteers involved in this group spend a lot of time fund raising so this cheque was an incredible boost to their funds and they were thrilled that so much had been donated. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful Creative Christmas.

Anne Hidson



Register on our Parish website

The new parish website www.theleighpc.org.uk will be used increasingly to spread news and information about meetings and events in our Parish and surrounding areas. If you go to the bottom of the opening page you can register your email and we will then notify you when anything new is posted on the site. Please register ASAP if you want to know what is going on.

At Christmas

Many thanks to all who decorated St Catherine's Church for Christmas. A special thanks to Brian, Geoff, Emma-Jane, Harriet and Jess who read at the Carol Service, also to William, Lara, Georgina and Harry for bringing the Advent Ring to life.

Throughout the Year

Margaret and Sue would also like to thank all who bought cards during 2016 and also kept them supplied with cards to recycle.



Thanks also to all the volunteers who decorate the church with flowers and clean every month.

St Catherine's Services:

Feb 5th - Evening Prayer 6.00pm
Feb 12th - Worship Together at Down Hatherley 10.00am
Feb 19th - Holy Communion 8.30am
Feb 26th - Evening Prayer 6.00pm



A fantastic turnout for our Christmas walk to and from the Gloucester Old Spot on 30th December. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and if you couldn't make it we will be arranging another walk to the Farmers Arms for some time in June (date tbc). Thanks again, Nicky & Sue

BINGO!

Saturday 18 March 2017
6.45pm for 7pm start
St Catherine's Church, The Leigh

£5
to include complimentary drink on arrival, strip of 6 books/10 games and dabber

Please bring additional drinks and nibbles (not permitted to sell alcohol in the church)

2 prizes per game

All proceeds to: Sue Ryder Hospice @ Home and St Catherine's Church

£5
to include complimentary drink on arrival, strip of 6 books/10 games and dabber

Cake Stall and opportunity to purchase additional bingo books

Organised by Harriet Robson as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

It would mean a lot if you could make it – please turn up on the night, but if you are able to let me know in advance (via joanna.robson@btinternet.com) that would be helpful so that I can make sure we have enough books and dabbers to go around. Men, women and children welcome – appropriate prizes!!!

I chose St Catherine's Church as they willingly let me use their facilities and Sue Ryder Hospice in memory of Mike (Brown) as he was my after-school art teacher at Norton primary school.

Harriet Robson

A FOND FAREWELL TO HARRY WILKS (1921 - 2016)

During the original "Dig for Victory" crusade in 1950, Harry and his fellow enthusiastic gardeners: Mrs Stovey, Mrs Poulton, Mr Piff and Mr & Mrs Hadley, formed The Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Society.



For the first Show, Harry loaded his bicycle with his precious cargo and peddled to Norton Village Hall – his efforts rewarded with four firsts, two seconds and one third. Just two years later, he was crowned Overall Champion. He competed for 64 years and won a staggering 52 times – an unbelievable achievement. His final overall Trophy was won in 2012, however, even in 2014, his last year of competition, he entered 3 classes – won all three and took away the Clive Rowlands Trophy for champion dahlias.

Harry was the quality setter at our Show and will be missed. For those of us left competing, we will always aspire to Harry's level of growing and showing, and his name will be heard every year as we continue to present the Harry Wilks Challenge Shield. This award was created to recognise Harry's devotion to competition gardening and when he was approached about this Shield he said "I don't know why you've chosen me, I don't deserve this".

Harry deserved everything he was awarded through his dedication and hard work, and his name will forever be displayed on the Honours' Boards permanently held at Norton Village Hall, the home of his annual pilgrimage.

Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Show Committee

Mobile Library
The Swan, Coombe Hill
15:10 – 16:10
3 February 2017
3 March 2017

Next Full Parish Council Meeting:

February 8, 2017 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
St Catherine's Church, The Leigh

Creative Christmas 2018

Should anyone have unwanted bottle bags, Christmas gift bags (any size) or 4ply wool, please drop around to Daniels Orchards at any time throughout the year. Many thanks. Karen, Jess and Jo



Dates for your new Calendars: Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Show

- 3 April 2017 Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm, Norton Village Hall
New members welcome – come along and see what is involved: 3 meetings, 1 plant sale & 1 annual show per year and lots of cake eating!
- 5 May 2017 Annual Plant Sale,
7-8pm, Norton Village Hall
- 12 August 2017, Annual Horticultural Show,
2.30pm, Norton Village Hall



Everyone Welcome

Norton and The Leigh Local History Group
Norton Village Hall
Monday 27 February



Our speaker will be Malcolm Watkins
'Ginger in a Coffin'
Food Preparation in Tudor and Stuart Times

£2 entrance to include coffee and biscuits
Doors open 7pm, talk starts at 7.30pm
Details: Sue Phelps 01452 731280

Everybody welcome

NORTON WI

Thurs 16 February
7.30pm
Norton Village
"Greek Music and Dance"
Speaker: Kathy Butterworth



For further info contact: Margaret Edwards 01452 731218

Leigh Postbox 2016 Update

The James Hopkins Trust has written to express their 'heartfelt' thanks for our donation of £160.00 collected from the Leigh Postbox 2016. A copy of their letter will be displayed on the village notice board should you wish to read how our donation will help their charity. [Karen Beeson](#)

NORTON VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Norton Village Hall is a great place where many of us come together to attend meetings, celebrate birthday parties, christenings and a plethora of local groups.



The Village Hall needs a fresh intake of committee members or we face the likely reality of not having enough people to run the village hall at the heart of our community.

Just like our homes, the Village Hall costs money to stay open: heating, insurance, maintenance and other bills need to be paid. The village hall committee work voluntarily to keep the hall open. The committee have recently put in a lot of effort and work to modernise the hall and provide new facilities for all users to enjoy – there are still more improvements planned.

We had a successful recruitment drive a few years ago, but for a variety of reasons two key committee members will be moving on at our AGM this year, leaving us without a Treasurer or Bookings Secretary – both posts (or combined one post) receive a small financial reward. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Christine Williams (01452 730547) or Jo Robson (01242 680257).

A summary of the posts are below:

- **Committee Member:** attendance at meetings, helping when possible
- **Committee Member/Treasurer:** approx 2 hours a month – further details available
- **Committee Member/Bookings Secretary:** manage on-line booking system
- **Caretaker:** a new post, someone 'handy' and hours to suit
- **Volunteer:** if you are willing to help with your specific talent, but are unable to be part of the Committee, please let us know how you can help.

Meetings are held every six weeks or so, at the Village Hall, which are informal and lighthearted – please come along if you can – we cannot do this all on our own.

Norton Village Hall Committee